

REMARKS

Claims 39-126 were presented in this application. Claims 59-126 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 39-58 are currently pending in the application.

In the Office Action mailed March 24, 2003, the Examiner restricted the application to Group I (Claims 39-95 and 115-126) drawn to a method of making a battery (grid), classified in class 29, subclass 2 and Group II (Claims 96-114) drawn to a grid for a battery, classified in class 429, subclass 233.

The Examiner also stated:

If invention I is elected, an election of species is required. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

I-1, Claims 39-58, drawn to a method of making a battery comprising forming a strip of interconnected grid from a grid material, forming at least a portion of the grid elements, applying paste to the strip and cutting the strip.

I-2, Claims 59-68, drawn to a method of making a battery comprising forming a strip of interconnected grids from a grid material, forming at least a portion of the grid elements and cutting the strip.

I-3, Claims 69-77, drawn to a method of making a battery comprising melting a grid material, continuously casting the grid material to form a continuous strip, rolling the strip, punching grid material, stamping at least a portion of the grid elements, applying paste to the strip and cutting the strip.

I-4, Claims 78-86, drawn to a method of making a battery comprising casting a material to form a continuous strip, rolling the strip, punching material out of the strip, stamping at least portion of the grid elements, applying paste to the strip and cutting the strip.

I-5, Claims 87-95, drawn to a method of making a (battery) grid comprising forming a perform grid, and forming at least a portion of the grid elements of the perform grid.

I-6, Claims 115-124, drawn to a method of making battery plates comprising forming a strip of interconnected grid from a grid material, deforming at least a portion of the grid elements, applying paste to the strip and cutting the strip.

I-7, Claims 125-126, drawn to a method of making battery plates comprising forming a strip of interconnected grid from a grid material, deforming at least a portion of the grid elements, and cutting the strip.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, none of the claims directed to invention I is generic.

Applicants have elected Group I with traverse. Applicants have further elected species I-1 (Claims 39-58) with traverse. Claims 59-126 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 39-58 are presented for examination in the present application.

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Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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